Sparks

The last several weeks, I have been sharing some highlights of a book that our pastoral council read this past year: *Keeping the Covenant: Taking the Parish to the Next Level, by Fr. Thomas Sweetser, SJ.* Last week I focused on the notion of parish as mission, which Fr. Tom reminds us that every good mission needs a structure to hang on, a network of relationships that allows the purpose of the group to find expressions and articulation.

Fr. Tom suggests that the key to this structure is twofold when it comes to the leadership as a parish community, especially with the pastor, staff, pastoral council and the many ministries and committees that are involved in keeping the covenant in parish life. He says that leadership needs to allow for a theology of partnership and a theology of relinquishment. The theology of partnership is described by the use of two scripture passages. The first, Jesus sent his followers out two-by-two to heal the sick and spread the Good News. (Mark 6:7) The second, when St. Paul speaks of being coworkers with the Lord. (1 Cor. 3:9)

A theology of relinquishment is simple, but hard at times because it challenges those in authority such as the pastor, parish staff, pastoral council, and those responsible for parish ministries and committees to let go of the need to control and share power and decision making with others.

The re-structuring of the pastoral council will take in to account the need to lift up these two theologies of partnership and relinquishment. The structure that we are moving too is based on a commission and leadership night type approach. There would be five commissions that would be set up: worship, community life, formation, outreach, and administration. Each of these commissions will be made up of six members chosen from those active in a ministry, group, or organization connected to one of the five areas.

Each commission would have two co-chairs to lead the work of the commission. When the five commissions have been set up, each commission would elect two members of the commission to be part of the pastoral council. Then the pastor would appoint one extra member to the council. So, that in the end there would be 12 pastoral council members, including the pastor. We hope to have the commission and the new pastoral council up in running by the end of the summer.

In the next several weeks, I will continue to give flesh to the structure of the five commissions and the Leadership night. I have included the pastoral council members who are working on this process. Please feel free to contact them.

Sally Graham: 718-5798 Henry Maicki: 787-4169
Aaron Johnson: 721-4295 Phillip Thompson: 787-4231
Don Thrall: 787-5105
Lorinda Collings – secretary / recorder: 787-5623

Fr. Mark

Growing and celebrating through the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Our Lady of the Black Hills

12365 Sturgis Road, Piedmont, SD 57769
p: 605.787.5168 f: 605.787.4106
e: olbh@olbh.org web: www.olbh.org
Office hours: Monday-Friday, 9am-3pm

Our Staff

Pastor:
Fr. Mark McCormick
(mark.mccormick@olbh.org)

Deacons:.
Walt Wilson & John Osnes

Gatherings of Grace Coordinator:
Teresa Thompson
(teresa.thompson@olbh.org)

Youth Ministry Coordinator:
Teresa Thompson
(teresa.thompson@olbh.org)

Children's Ministry Coordinator:
Jenny Scherr
(jenny.scherr@olbh.org)

Liturgy Coordinator:
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Bookkeeper:
Lorinda Collings
(lorinda.collings@olbh.org)

Maintenance Coordinator:
Jim Wranek
(jim.wranek@olbh.org)

Liturgy and Prayer

Sunday Liturgy: Saturday, 5:00 pm; Sunday, 9:00 am & 6:00 pm
Daily Liturgy: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday, 8:00 am
Eucharistic Adoration & Reconciliation: Wednesday, 8:00 am - 6:30 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 3:30 to 4:30 pm

Gatherings of Grace

Our parish has an intergenerational model of faith formation called Gatherings of Grace. All generations meet together the second Wednesday of each month, September through May.

Bulletin Announcements

Please email bulletin@olbh.org by noon on Tuesday for the following Sunday bulletin.

This Week at Our Lady of the Black Hills

Monday, March 1
Daniel 9:4-10; Psalms 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Luke 6:36-38 (violet)
8:00 am: Daily Liturgy (Intention: In Thanksgiving for Ron & Donna Eliason)
4:30 pm: Lumko Group
6:30 pm: Cub Scouts
7:00 pm: Book Club

Tuesday, March 2
Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Psalms 50:8-9, 16-17, 21, 23; Matthew 23:1-12 (violet)
8:00 am: Daily Liturgy (Intention: For Improved Health of Whitney Werdel)
10:00 am: Staff Holy Hour
7:00 pm: Boy Scouts

Wednesday, March 3
Jeremiah 18:18-20; Psalms 31:5-6, 14, 15-16; Matthew 20:17-28 (violet)
8:00 am: Daily Liturgy (Intention: Healing for those who have been affected by sexual abuse & Masses for Life)
8:30 am – 6:30 pm: Eucharistic Adoration with Reconciliation from 5:30 – 6:30 pm
9:00 am: Noon: Food Pantry
6:30 pm: Confirmation Class

Thursday, March 4
Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalms 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6; Luke 16:19-31 (violet)
8:00 am: Daily Liturgy (Intention: In Thanksgiving for Don Snyder)
10:00 am: Staff Meeting
6:30 pm: Knights of Columbus Potluck
7:30 pm: Knights of Columbus General Meeting

Friday, March 5
Day of Abstinence
Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-18; Psalms 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46 (violet)
11:15 am: Bishop's Mass & Luncheon
5:30 – 7:00 pm: Lenten Fish Fry
7:00 pm Stations of the Cross
8:00 pm Lenten Film Festival – *One Night with the King*

Saturday Morning, March 6
Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Psalms 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (violet)
8:00 am: Liturgy Committee Meeting
9:00 am: Lumko Group
9:00 am – noon: Food Pantry
3:30 – 4:30 pm: Sacrament of Reconciliation

Fish Fry 5:30 – 7:00 pm
Stations of the Cross - 7:00 pm
Lead by SPROUTS
Film Festival – 8:00 pm
One Night with the King

Reflection Questions for Next Sunday
Lent calls us to transform our lives.

Children: Jesus invites you to be close to him, to see him with clear eyes. What is Jesus like as a friend?

Youth: What do you most want God to help you with?

Adults: Sometimes we can see Christ with clear eyes, as the disciples did on that mountain. Share about such a time in your own life.

Saturday Evening, March 6
Third Sunday of Lent
Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15; Psalms 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11; First Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12; Luke 13:1-9 (violet)
5:00 pm: Sunday Liturgy (Intention: For the Repose of Lorraine DeVille)

Sunday, March 7
Second Sunday of Lent
Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15; Psalms 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11; First Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12; Luke 13:1-9 (violet)
9:00 am: Sunday Liturgy (Intention: For the Repose of Gene Kraft)
10:00 am: Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast
10:15 am: RCIA
NO SPROUTS, Edge, Life Teen & Adult Life
6:00 pm: Sunday Liturgy (Intention: For Our OLBH Community)

Intercessory Prayers
Life and Health Concerns:
Dan Christ, Joe Creek, Alice Donley, Bob Lantis, Don Padgett, Mary Policky, Mary Pulaski, Mary Ann & Sid Pulaski, George Senn, Whitney Werdel
Repose:
Wanda Clemens

Collection Report
February 13th & 14th

Loose	$1844.30
Envelopes	1774.00
Votive	7.75
Student	121.68
Adopt a Seminarian	25.00
Fish Fry	537.00
Other	30.00
Total	**$4339.73**

Ministry Schedule

March 6 & 7	5:00 pm	9:00 am	6:00 pm
Bread Baker	Becky Wentz		
Altar Servers	David Strand* Rileigh Kronmiller Jerrod Deaver	**Need *** Rachel Varilek Andrew Corbine	Chris Van Asma* Matthew Van Asma Curt Mahaffy
Precious Body - Precious Blood	**John Osnes** Joe Deaver Reggie Hunt Jayme Hunt Kathleen Amiotte	**John Osnes** Donna Boner Sharon Long Judy Nelson Christine Didriksen	**John Osnes** Tom Van Asma Betsy Van Asma Tanya McCaskell Michelle Bucholz
Lectors	Cathy Wang Joni Osnes	Mary Coffin Laura Varilek	Bridgette Fode Diane Clarke
Sacristans	Craig Thompson Cindy Thompson	Ken Van Asma Kathy Van Asma	Blauvelt Family
Ushers	Don Everson Kevin Conway	Joan Wilson Stan Barber	Kevin Rohrbach Aaron Denekamp
Choir	OLBH Choir	Regina's Minstrels	Covenant Band

OLBH Parish News

Lenten Fish Fry

Join us on Friday's evenings during Lent (starting February 19th through March 26th) from 5:30 to 7:00 pm, We will offer fried and baked cod fillets or macaroni and cheese, served with baked potato, coleslaw and roll, brownies and ice cream, coffee, and fruit punch. The proceeds will benefit OLBH Faith Formation adult training and a statue of Mary with the Christ Child for our grotto. If you would be willing to help set up, cook, or clean up, there is a signup sheet in the gathering area.

Stations of the Cross by Women

The women will be leading the Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 19, 2010 at 7:00 pm. There is a signup sheet in the Narthex for all those who would like to read a station. We will be doing the Way of the Cross for Women by Sr. Marie Schwan. I have invited Sr. Marie to join us and she has accepted. We also need 1 candle bearer and 2 cross bearers. You can sign up on the same sheet. If you have any questions please call Cathy Wang at 718-8913.

First Communion Upcoming Meeting

There will be a parent meeting on Wednesday, February 24 from 7:00-8:15pm with Aaron & Cathleen Denekamp. First Communion students will meet during the same time with Jenny Scherr. If you have any questions contact Cathleen at 787-6398.

SPROUTS Parents (No SPROUTS this weekend)

Parents are encouraged to share in a meal with your child on Sundays at 4:00pm. SPROUTS Parents are required to sign their child in to their classroom beginning at 4:25pm (classes begin at 4:30pm). Please pick up your child promptly at 5:45pm from their respective classrooms. If you have any questions contact Jenny Scherr at 787-5168.

Seeing Easter

Parish Lenten Retreat: March 26-27; Friday 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm and Saturday 9:00 am to noon. There is a widespread demand for spirituality in today's world. John Paul II called for Christian communities to become genuine "schools" of prayer. Lent provides the space for Christians and catechumens to pray fervently and to take stock of their lives. This retreat will prepare us for the Easter Triduum through the prayer form *visio divina*--a Latin term which means "divine seeing." Similar to the sixth century Benedictine practice of Bible reading called *lectio divina*, *visio divina* is a prayer practice that facilitates a revelation of God through the opened eye of one's heart. In this retreat, we will pray with and ignite your spiritual imagination with illuminations from The Saint John's Bible and other art forms.

Hope for New Life Jail Ministry

...and then they ask, "How do you know if your visits to the jail are doing any good?"

ONE VOLUNTEER'S EXPERIENCE: When I went to leave the jail on Wednesday, I was waiting for the first door to open and beside me was the man who did not write out a prayer request, and he was waiting for the other side to open. But God works in mysterious ways, as this man said to me, "Thanks for coming. There is a lot to think about." He touched my heart with his gratitude.

Witnessing to someone in jail is actually not much different than doing the same thing at work, at school, or in passing...the truth is that we rarely see immediate results. But that's OK. Our obligation isn't to be "successful." It's to be faithful, and God will fill in the gaps. Some are led to visit the jail while others provide fuel for another soul's growth through our prayer chain. Consider these prayers from last week:

- (1) Thank you Lord for everything. I will continue to follow you. Thanks for these nice people who come and share my sadness. I'm sorry for sinning, my bad thoughts, my envy toward others. Please watch over my grandkids and all my children.
- (2)Pray that God's mighty hand continues to show me His glory through my trials and tribulations and that I remember each day that all things work together for good for those who love God. Pray for peace upon my heart. Thank you.
- (3)I need prayers to keep my focus on my sobriety once I am released. I also praise God for a supportive family and for the people who've helped me!

To learn more about Hope For New Life Jail Ministry or about becoming a prayer partner, please contact Tony Galles (348-2301) or Mary Sperlich (342-9343).

General Directory for Catechesis

– in plain English

Catechesis according to age

[176] There are several forms of adult catechesis which we will now list.

But note, all of these are meant only to accompany the ongoing, systematic catechetical courses *which every parish must provide for all adults.*

First, of course, is the RCIA, where folks are readied for Christian initiation.

Second are the traditional forms of adult catechesis, following the liturgical year or in the form of parish missions.

Third is the formation of catechists themselves, and others in lay ministry.

Fourth is preparation for marriage, or for the baptism of one's children, as well as for other critical moments in one's life.

Fifth occurs at times of change, such as when joining the military or when emigrating.

Sixth deals with the use of leisure time during holidays or vacations.

Seventh addresses special events in the life of the Church.

Catechesis of infants and young children

[177] Christ proclaimed the children to be privileged participants in the reign of God.

Therefore, those who have given life to children and baptized them in faith must also provide them with ongoing catechesis.

[178] Various members of a child's circle of life play a role in catechesis.

Diocesan News

RCCSS School Board will be interviewing for new board members in the upcoming weeks, as some current members will be completing their service.

The school board serves an important role, along with the school system's administrators and faculty, in providing a rich school community environment in collaboration with the Bishop and pastors, as well as both internal and external constituents. Each has a special role and commensurate responsibilities in the development of the school system's programs, policies and procedures. Members of the school board use their individual talents, gifts, and insights for the common good of the school community to promote the mission and goals of Catholic education. The school system is further strengthened through the working partnership between the leadership of the school and the school board.

If you are interested in serving on the RCCSS board or would like information regarding these board positions, please contact Dionne Eastmo at 343-1708 or eastmofamily@gmail.com.

Pray for the Success of *Terra Sancta*

Eucharistic Adoration with Solemn Exposition will be held in the main chapel at *Terra Sancta* (formerly St. Martin Monastery) from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. on Friday, March 5. As Bishop Blase Cupich wrote in the *West River Catholic,* the name *Terra Sancta* is the Latin term for the Holy Land. It is a name that connects us with the place where Jesus lived, died and rose again. It is also a place where all Catholics in western South Dakota will feel at home. Please join the St. Faustina Divine Mercy Intercessory Prayer Group in praying for the future of *Terra Sancta*. Other dates on which Adoration will be held are March 19 and April 9 and 30, also from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. For details, call Halina Hladysz at 718-5719 or email Gail Wingert at gwingert@rap.midco.net.

World Apostolate of Fatima March Masses

World Apostolate of Fatima First Friday Mass will be held at 5:30 p.m. on March 5 in the chapel at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral in Rapid City. It will be followed by prayers and devotions. First Saturday Mass will be held in the chapel at the cathedral at 8:00 a.m. on March 6 and will be followed by exposition and the rosary. For more information, contact Ellen Robertson at 718.9909.

IHM SEMINARY VISIT

On March 5-8, the Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Winona, MN, and the Office of Vocations will host a Live-In Weekend for young men who are juniors/seniors in high school and college-age students who are interested in knowing more about the seminary life. The Live-In schedule will include a tour of the campus, discussions, meals and prayer with the college seminarians, plus attendance at classes and time for recreation. There is **No Charge** for the weekend. We will leave on Friday, March 5, and return on Monday, March 8. For further information, please contact Fr. Brian Christensen, Director of Vocations at (605) 484-8940 or Godscall@diorc.org. Registration forms available at www.Gods-call.org.

VOCATION WEEKEND FOR YOUNG WOMEN

On March 6-8, the Office of Vocations will host a vocation weekend for young women (ages 18-35) who are interested in religious life. The weekend will include travel to Denver, CO, to visit the Carmelite Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Los Angeles, the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia, and the Little Sisters of the Poor. This weekend will be a great opportunity to spend time with consecrated women and learn more about discernment and vocations. Cost is $15. We will leave on Saturday, March 6, and return on Monday, March 8. For further information or to register, please contact Susan Safford at (605) 343-3541 x235 or ssafford@diorc.org.

Engaged Encounter Weekend

The next weekend for engaged or newly married couples will be held **March 12-14, 2010** at *Terra Sancta* (formerly St. Martin's Monastery), Rapid City. The weekend gives the couple an opportunity to look at themselves first as individuals, then as a couple, and finally to examine their relationship with God, the Church, and the world. To register for the weekend or for more information, contact Greg & Connie Forstner, 605-341-6032.

You are invited to the Bird & Bison Banquet

A benefit for the Cornerstone Rescue Mission's new childcare center, Dear Ones, and the Women and Children's Home will be held on Saturday, March 13, at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center. A boutique will sell quality resale items from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. The evening will include a banquet, program, silent auction and raffle. Tickets are $40 for an adult or $300 for a table of eight adults and must be purchased by March 2. Tickets will not be sold at the door. For more information, contact Cindy at 341-2741 or cgolden@cornerstonemission.org.

Christian Family Planning Seminar

will be offered by the Natural Family Planning Ministry on **Saturday, March 13, 2010, 9:00 a.m. - Noon at St. Bernard's in McLaughlin.** ***This seminar is a requirement for engaged couples getting married in the Diocese of Rapid City.*** Married couples, or anyone who wants to learn more about Natural Family Planning, are encouraged to attend. For more information, or to register, call Jill or Kathy at Family Life Ministries at 605-343-3541.

Chrism Mass and Memorial for Fathers Hickerson and Orians Tuesday, March 16, 5:30 pm Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Bishop Blase Cupich cordially invites all to participate in the annual blessing of the holy oils for sacramental use in the Diocese of Rapid City for the coming year. Father Donald Hickerson and Father David Orians will be remembered in special prayers at the Mass. Both priests passed away last fall and their funerals were held outside the diocese. The Western South Dakota Catholic Foundation will sponsor a reception in the parish hall after Mass.

Diocesan News Continued...

Annual Diocesan Men's Retreat

March 19-21, 2010! Men, mark your calendars & Join Fr. Mark McCormick as he directs this year's retreat, **Visio Divina - Our vision of the Kingdom of God**, at *Terra Sancta* (formerly St. Martin's Monastery), Rapid City. Registration fee: $100.00. For more information, call Family Life Ministries, 605-343-3541.

CSS PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH March 28th

The Very Reverend David M. O'Connell, CM, JCD, President of the Catholic University of America has accepted our invitation to be the featured speaker at the 2010 Palm Sunday Brunch. The doors will open at 11:30 on Sunday, March 28th at the RAMKOTA Ballroom in Rapid City for this annual event, with the brunch and program from 12:00 N – 2:00 pm. Contact the CSS office at 348-6086 or (800) 727-2401 to reserve your complimentary tickets. A sell-out is expected.

Steubenville Rochester – Deposits Due March 1st

July 16-18, 2010. Cost: $285. Registration is now open. Experience Christ in the Mass, reconciliation, and adoration. For those entering 9th grade in 2010 through college aged students. Host: Ennie Hickman Band: Sonar. Conference location at the Mayo Civic Center, Rochester, MN. Contact Provatia Potvin 343-3541. Registration instructions and forms at www.rapidcitydiocese.org.

St. Louis Mission Trip

July 24-August 1, 2010. St. Louis, MO. Cost: $500. Deposit: $100. For those entering 9th grade in 2010 and up. Work can include renewing homes (cleaning, painting, yard work, minor repairs), helping at day care centers, homeless shelters, or food pantries. Space is limited to 45 teens and 10 adults. Contact Lisa Fahey 605-224-8969.

Rachel's Corner

"I lived the last twenty two years with shame and self doubt; in that shame and doubt I built a wall up between my husband, my children, my family, and my Lord. Rachel's Vineyard gently, lovingly and with care picked apart that wall until it came crumbling down. Rachel's Vineyard is such a blessing! My only regret is that I waited too long!" - *Testimony from a Rachel's Vineyard Retreatant*

If you are struggling with the emotional pain of an abortion, please don't wait any longer to seek the healing you need. You can find forgiveness and the loving mercy of Christ at a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat. ***Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreats: April 23-25, 2010 in Bismarck, ND and May 21-23, 2010 in Rapid City, SD.***

Contact Carol Kling for information about area retreats at 605-374-5639 or ckling@sdplains.com or go to the diocesan website: www.rapidcitydiocese.org/Ministries/FamilyLife.htm. For more information, contact the national office at 877-467-3463 or www.rachelsvineyard.org.

For the Ride Home

By Ted Bergh

Scripture

- Look up at the stars and count the stars, if you can. (Genesis 15:5)
- "To your descendents I give this land." (Genesis 15:18)
- He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body… (Philippians 3:21)
- Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. (Luke 9:32)
- Then from the cloud the voice said, "This is my chosen Son, listen to him." After the voice had spoken Jesus was found alone. (Luke 9:35)

Reflection

- What prevents you from accepting your spiritual inheritance?
- Can you count the stars or conceive of God's blessing that is the gift of faith.
- Have you ever had a mountaintop experience of God?
- Where do you find Jesus after leaving the "mountaintop?"
- How is spiritual life kept fresh in the everyday?

The invisible has become visible; the intangible became tangible in Christ. History has been shocked into new life since Jesus came to play a part in it: the cosmos has become a sacred offering since the Word took flesh from a women living in the cosmos.

God has become man, the Word has become a child, Immensity has accepted limitations.

The infinite has become finite.

The unknowable has made himself known. …

In order to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, we need a revelation from the Father.

We need absolute humility of mind and heart if we are to enter into such a mystery as this. There is no point in discussing it.

Carretto, Carlo, *In Search of the Beyond,* Image Books, Doubleday, NY 1978, P. 63,63

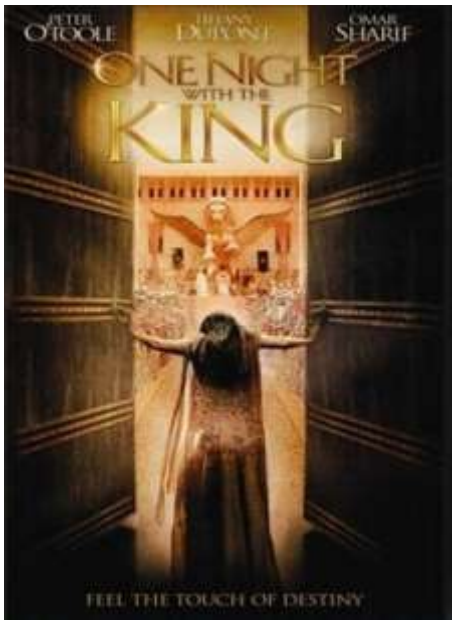
From the Diocesan Pro-Life Commission

At the end of the parable [of the Good Samaritan], Jesus said: "Go and do likewise" (Luke 10: 37). With these words he is also addressing us. Jesus exhorts us to bend over the physical and mental wounds of so many of our brothers and sisters whom we meet on the highways of the world. He helps us to understand that with God's grace, accepted and lived out in our daily life, the experience of sickness and suffering can become a school of hope. In truth, as I said in the Encyclical *Spe salvi*, "It is not by sidestepping or fleeing from suffering that we are healed, but rather by our capacity for accepting it, maturing through it and finding meaning through union with Christ, who suffered with infinite love". ~ **Pope Benedict XVI**, Message for the 18th World Day of the Sick, Feb. 11, 2010. www.vatican.va

OLBH Lenten Film Festival

Friday, February 26th at 8:00 pm

One Night with the King



Based on Tommy Tenney's novel "Hadassah," "One Night with the King" (Gener8Xion Entertainment) tepidly recounts the Old Testament story of Esther (Tiffany DuPont), a devout Jewish maiden who becomes a queen when she is chosen as the bride of the powerful Persian King Xerxes (Luke Goss). Though hiding her Hebrew identity out of fear for her life, she uses her elevated station to save her people from extermination by dissuading her husband from ordering the slaughter urged by a vengeful court advisor Haman, the Amelekite (James Callis). Haman is driven by a genocidal hatred of the Jewish people stemming from an ancient enmity. The deliverance won by Esther's trusting in God is celebrated to this day in the Jewish festival of Purim.

The biblical drama has impressive production value and cameos by Oscar-pedigreed actors like Omar Sharif and Peter O'Toole, but it's handicapped by an inferior screenplay by Stephan Blinn - which makes some changes to the story - and awkward, if earnest, direction by Michael Sajbel.

Still, the power of tale's enduring theme of faithful witness in the face of persecution isn't completely diminished by the filmmaker's uninspired telling.

The film contains some discreet violence and sensuality, and mature thematic elements. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

Based on Tommy Tenney's novel "Hadassah," the film has impressive production value and cameos by Oscar-pedigreed actors like Omar Sharif and Peter O'Toole, but it's handicapped by an inferior screenplay by Stephan Blinn - which makes some changes to the story - and awkward, if earnest, direction by Michael Sajbel. Still, the power of tale's enduring theme of faithful witness in the face of persecution isn't completely diminished by the filmmaker's uninspired telling. Some discreet violence and sensuality, and mature thematic elements. **A-II -- adults and adolescents.** (PG) ***2006***